Human Rights abuses in Iraq

#*350. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of Indians in Iraq are suffering from Human Rights abuses;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether many Indians are illegally detained there; and

(d) *if so, the details thereof?*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) Government has no information that thousands of Indians in Iraq are suffering from human rights abuses. However, the Government has received occasion complaints from Indian workers alleging ill-treatment and exploitation by their employers in Iraq. Such instance have been taken up with concerned employer/contractor, and assistance extended in repatriating the interested Indian workers. Government has no information of many Indians being illegally detained in Iraq.

Help for Indians in Iraq

#*357. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: ††
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 5000 Indians are in Iraq and as many as 11 have lost their lives;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to provide all help to the Indians who want to return back;

(c) if so, whether any concrete steps and measures have been taken to help them;

(d) whether a number of Indians were held hostages in Iraq by militant group;

Discussed together.
†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Prema Cariappa.

(e) if so, what efforts were made to get them released; and

(f) whether all the Indians working there have been urged to return back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (f) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) It is estimated that about 5000 Indians are presently in Iraq. At least 13 Indians have lost their lives in Iraq in the last one-year.

(b) and (c) Government have decided to provide all possible help to Indians in Iraq who want to return to India. In this connection, the Government have taken the following concrete steps and steps:—

(i) Government has instructed the Indian Missions in Iraq and its neighbouring countries to extend all possible assistance to the Indian nationals in Iraq who want to return to India.

(ii) Government has requested the Governments of Jordan and Kuwait to issue transit visas for Indians returning to India from Iraq.

(iii) Indian Mission in Baghdad has contacted the employers of Indians who wish to return to India to facilitate their travel out of Iraq and settlement of their dues by their employers.

(iv) The Indian Embassy in Baghdad has sent its officials to some of the places in Iraq where the Indians are located to enquire their well-being and to provide assistance and guidance in case they have decided to leave Iraq.

(d) and (e) On the night of 21st July, 2004, it was learnt from a news agency report that three Indian nationals identified as Antaryami Bains, Tilak Raj and Sukhdev Singh were among the seven persons taken hostage by an Iraqi group identified as "The Holders of the Black Banners". The hostages included in addition three Kenyans and one Egyptian. They were all employed as heavy vechicle drivers by the Kuwait based company, Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Co. (KGLTC). The kidnappers in a statement reported by the media demanded withdrawal of all citizens

belonging to the countries of the hostages from Iraq including troops and an end to the activities of the transport company in Iraq. The Group threatened to behead a hostage every 72 hours unless these demands are met.

Immediately after the hostage taking was reported, the Government initiated action forthwith to secure their release. Senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs contacted Indian Missions in Baghdad and Kuwait to explore all possibilities to ensure safety of the hostages and their early release. Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahammed spoke to the Charged Affaires in Embassy of India, Baghdad and the Indian Ambassador in Kuwait. A Crisis Management Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Ahammed and a Control Room was made operative in Ministry of External Affairs. Minister of External Affairs, Shri K. Natwar Singh issued an appeal to the kidnappers through the Arab TV Network for release of the hostages who are innocent civilians and not combatants. The Government also contacted the Governments of Egypt and Kenya whose nationals are among the hostages for inputs to work for the release of the hostages. Our Mission in Kuwait has been in touch with the transport company KGL from the very beginning of the abduction and received and assured the company that it will take all possible steps to secure release and safe return of the kidnapped drivers.

The situation is constantly being monitored by the Crisis Management Group which meets several times a day to review strategies to secure safe and early release of hostages. Shri E. Ahammed, MOS has issued two appeals to the kidnappers through Arabic TV network highlighting historical relations between India and Iraq and India's well-known and principled position and concern for the welfare and well being of Iraqi people and their country and requesting for immediate release of the hostages. He also made an appeal to the captors in Arabic language for release of the hostages on humanitarian grounds. Religious leaders in Iraq and other Gulf countries were contacted to intercede for the release of the hostages. Ambassador of India in Muscat, Shri Talmiz Ahmad alongwith an Arabic interpreter has been deputed to Iraq to monitor and report on the development and to assist in the work of the Indian mission for early and safe release of the hostages. Cabinet Secretary chaired several meetings to review the situation and the ongoing efforts to secure the release of the hostages. Prime Minister held a meeting to

take stock of the efforts of the Government. External Affairs Minister followed the development closely and gave directions whenever necessary.

(f) The Government has not urged Indians working in Iraq to return to India. However, Government has issued an advisory that in view of present security situation in Iraq, Indians should defer their visit to Iraq for the time being.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is aware that thousands of Indians in Iraq are working like slaves, under rigid contractual conditions. If so, whether the Government has set up any special cell in the Indian Embassy at Baghdad to work round the clock, to provide help and assistance to Indians in distress.

SHRI E. AHAMMED. Sir, Indians are working in Iraq, but there are no complaints that they have been ill-treated and are working in slave-like conditions. As a matter of fact, the Indian Embassy is always in touch with them. The Indian Embassy at Baghdad has been instructed to go and have a look at the Indians at various camps, wherever possible, without jeopardising their lives. The Indian Embassy would always be there to help, but a 24 hours help-line has not been estalished so far. That is a good suggestion for the consideration of the Government

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, as everyone knows, three Indians have been held hostages in Iraq. I would like to know about the steps taken by the Indian Embassy to ensure the safety of these drivers and efforts being made for their early release, and whether the Government would provide some monetary assitance to the families of these drivers. I would also like to know the number of Indians who have left Iraq for India during the last three months.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, it is true that three Indians have been taken hostage by a section of militant people in Iraq. As soon as report by the news agency of the kidnapping was received here, the Government of India has taken certain steps. The Government of India has constituted a Crisis Management Group, and as is the usual practice, we are already in touch with our Embassies, both at Baghdad and Kuwait These Embassies have been doing their jobs.

The tree kidnapped drivers had been working for a private company, KGL, Kuwait, and the KGL has been in touch with the kidnappers through

an intermediary. We have been encouraging the Company to continue with the negotiations.

Sir, as it is a delicate and senstive matter, I would only say that our Embassy is at work through the KGL company, and we hope, everything will be resolved successfully within a couple of days.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY. Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the several incidents that have taken place, where a number of middle-men are playing mischief, they are promising jobs to people in Iraq and Kuwait, and collecting money from them. These incidents have been reported in a number of newspapers. I would like to know what action the Government plans to take to control these middle-men, and to see that people, who wish to go to Iraq to work, are not cheated, and put in trouble It is also being said that people who are already there in Iraq are also facing troubles because of false promises made by the middle-men.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as Iraq is concerned, the Government has now suspended visas to visit Iraq We have also approached the Governments of Kuwait and Jordan and asked them not to allow Indians to cross their borders into Iraq. So far as Iraq is concerned, no Indian is permitted to go over there. Some unscrupulous agents have been misguiding our people and getting them visas for other countries like Kuwait and Jordan from where these people are being taken to Iraq.

This is a matter to be looked into by the Labour Ministry. With regard to the immigration, they have been informed we are on the job and we have been taking steps according to the situation obtaining. I would say that the Government on this matter is moving very fast and there is no question of granting any visa to anybody to visit Iraq at this point of time.

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: क्या सरकार ने इराक में अमेरिकी संस्थानों की निगरानी करने के लिए कुछ भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा कुवैत तथा जॉर्डन से इराक में चोरी-छिपे भूतपूर्व सैनिकों को भेजने संबंधी घटनाओं की जांच की है?

SHRI E AHAMMED. Sir, I have already informed the House that the Government has absolutely no role in sending anybody to Iraq.

श्री तारिक अनवर: सर, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में दिया है कि सरकार को यह जानकारी नहीं है कि इराक में जो भारतीय वर्कर काम कर रहे हैं, उनकी ह्यूमन राइट्स के संबंध में कोई

शिकायत है। दूसरे, उन्होंने यह भी कहा कभी-कभी हमें इस बात की सूचना मिलती है कि इराक में जो हिन्दुस्तानी वर्कर्स काम कर रहे हैं, उन के साथ ill-treatment होता है। तो मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि — (a) Had the Government requested the Human Rights Watch to investigate the Human Rights abuse on Indians in Iraq?

(b) If not, the reasons therefor;

(c) Has the Indian Government taken up the matter with the Human Rights Watch which has conducted the survey of Human Rights violation in Iraq? If so, the details thereof

SHRI E. AHAMED: There is no large-scale Human Rights abuse in Iraq as mentioned by the hon. Member. As on 1.7.04, there are around 5200 Indians in Iraq. Around 4742 Indian workers were deployed in Iraq as per the reports of the Embassy of India in Baghdad. Thirteen deaths of Indians have been reported in Iraq, the details of which are with me. If the Chair permits me, I can even read out the names of those people who have been killed and died there, and also the recent incident of workers stranded in Iraq is also there. Some Indians were arrested by the Iraq authorities while trying to go to Europe *via* Syria. They were repatriated to India in May 2004 with the help of the Indian Embassy. Around 20 Indian workers who were employed at a US facility near Faluja were interested to returning to India and were assisted by our Mission in June 2004. A group of 14 Indians who were trying to enter Syria illegally in order to reach Europe, were detained by the Iraqi Police near Mosul in Northern Iraq and were sentenced to Jail. The sentence was suspended and they were released. Our Embassy in Baghdad arranged for their repatriation to India. These are the things going on. And, again, Sir, with your permission, I may also inform the House, it is estimated that about 800 Indians have returned from Iraq to India in the last six months. This is the position. So, whenever the matter has been reported to our Embassy, we have been doing it, and we have also instructed our Ambassador to visit the camp and ascertain if there is any human rights violation or ill-treatment. As a matter of fact, I may take the House into confidence, when certain complaints appeared in the Indian Press, officers from our Embassy visited the Falucha camp. There were 170 Indians. Only 20 people said that they wanted to go back to India and many of them said so because of domestic reasons. Other 150 people said that they were treated well, they did not have problem and that they did not

want to go back to India. This is the situation. I just wanted to make it clear for the information of hon. Members of this House.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, there is a contradiction I would like to point out.... (*Interruptions*)

MR CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Shri Kalraj Mishra.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I have given all the facts. There is no contradiction at all.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: सभापति जी, वहां अमरीकन सैनिकों के द्वारा काफी भारतीयों और पूर्व सैनिकों को अपने घेरे में रखकर जबर्दस्ती काम कराया जा रहा है और उनका उत्पीड़न हो रहा है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या ऐसी कोई जानकारी उनके पास है कि वहां कितने भारतीय नागरिक अमरीकन सैनिकों के घेरे में हैं और कितने पूर्व सैनिक उनके घेरे में है? अगर यह जानकारी हो तो कृपया बताएं।

SHRI E. AHAMMED: These people are not going with the information of the Government of India. They have been taken there by several agencies in several ways. That is why, the Government have now stopped crossing of the border by any Indian to Iraq and have suspended immigration. Whenever we get information about some people working there in American camp, we take up the problems of some of the workers who are working in the camps run by the U.S. military forces. But, U.S. Embassy, in New Delhi, have conveyed to us that Indian nationals are not employed by the U.S. Government in Iraq. The private companies, which have got contracts from the U.S. Government, have employed Indian nationals in Iraq and that these private companies, as employers, are responsible for the well-being of their employees. Therefore, we are always taking up the matter with the private companies, whenever a question of ill-treatment or difficulty is brought to the notice of our Mission in Iraq.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri A. Vijayaraghavan.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, the U.S. forces are outsourcing the entire business there, whether it is transportation, food, or whatever it is....(*Interruptions*)

श्री सभापति: आप बाद में क्वैश्चन कर लेना, अभी उन्हें करने दीजिए।

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, whatever may be the answer and explanation in this reply, the situation is like this — all the three captives

are still under the custody of these people I have seen the Minister half-a-dozen times on T.V. These are poor people. If they were some big men, kidnapped from some airline aircraft, then, it would have posed a big problem. You would have depute a Minister for their release. Here, they are poor people There is nobody to look after them. This country is on tenterhooks for so many days I do not know when they are going to be released What are the steps taken by the Government? A very unfortunate thing is going on

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, the Prime Minister is here .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat Prime Minister is here. If he wants to reply, he can.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR This is a serious issue. Let, the hon. Prime Minister answer it....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN. This nation wants a reply as to when they are going to be released. It should not be repeated. Naturally, what is happening even now is that they are recruiting people for Kuwait and sending them to Iraq by one way or the other, maybe as workers who are helping the U.S. Army in Iraq. So, it needs to be stopped. The nation needs a correct reply from the Government What is the current position? How are you going to resolve the issue? How are you going to stop this kind of misuse of the poor unemployed youth from this country? You have to give a proper reply to the nation and this has to be resolved at the earliest.

SHRI E. AHAMMED. Mr. Chairman, Sir, here I would like to make it clear again that whoever may be obtaining visa to Iraq, no Indian will be allowed to go to Iraq (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN. Sir, they are not giving the visa..(*Interruptions*).. . They are taking them to Kuwait, and, .(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI E. AHAMMED. Please wait. .(*Interuptions*..) Let me give the reply. Sir, it is true that our three Indian brothers are in the custody of the kidnappers. The Government of India has decided that there shall be no direct dialogue with the kidnappers. Under no circumstances, we are going to have a dialogue with the kidnappers, and, there is no ransom,

nothing like that. Sir, the honour of India will always be kept up....(*Interruptions*..)

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: The policy of the Government... (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, the action taken by the Government of India. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, I would like to say that it is true that they are the hostages. But the Government's policy is not to have any dialogue with the kidnappers, and, the Government will not directly involve itself on that. But, at the same time...(*Interruptions*)..Let me first complete, then, you can put any number of questions...(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Sir, in this case, from the beginning it has been said that...(*Interruptions*)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thakur, let him speak...(*Interruptions*)..Let him speak.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, this is very important matter, and, the...(*Interruptions*)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat....(*Interruptions*)...Please take your seat.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, these three Indians are employees of a Kuwaiti company. The Kuwaiti company is doing everything... (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI N. JOTHI: They are the citizens of India...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Now you are shouting... (*Interruptions*). Let him reply..(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, the Kuwaiti company has been working and trying to get all the seven hostages — three Kenyans, one Egyptian and three Indians — released. They have been trying their best to get them released. we have been encouraging the Kuwaiti company to proceed on that line. That is what we have been doing.

So far as the policy of the Government of India on this hostage crisis is concerned, Mr. Chairman, with your kind permission, I would like to make it clear that it is the policy of the Government of India not to

compromise with the terrorist groups or elements However, while adhering to this principle, the objective of the Government is to ensure the safety and well being of all the citizens, whether in India or abroad. In case of hostage taking, the Government makes all efforts possible to secure the early and safe release of its nationals.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have been...(*Interruptions*..) for the last so many times...(*Interruptions*..)

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, we have only two ways. Either we will have to hold the discussion or negotiation with the kidnappers and settle with them, which we have decided not to, or, the other thing is that we have to watch out, which we cannot do because there is also the Kenyan Government and the Egyptian Government other than the Indian Government. All the three Governments have taken a unanimous decision not to have any dialogue with the hostage-takers. This is the policy. Under these circumstances, we will have to do it carefully and cautiously, and, that is what we are doing..(*Interruptions*..)

So far as India is concerned, there were three more cases, one was Mhatre's case in which Indira Gandhi had taken the decision not to.. (*Interruptions*..)....Sir, the second was Rubaiya's case, and, the third one was Kandhar case, and, everything will have to be taken into account while considering the gravity of the situation, and that we are carefully doing. Sir, I can assure the House . .(*Interruptions*)

श्री सभापति: ठीक है।

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question pertains to the hon. Minister for Labour. It is Q. No. 342. Sir, I would like to ask the Government of India through the Minister of Labour....(*Interruptions*..)

श्री सभापति: यह लेबर का क्वेश्चन नहीं है।

श्री शंकर राय चौधरी: मैं प्रश्न संख्या 342 की बात कर रहा हूं।

श्री सभापति: फिर छोड़िए, मैं इसको बाद में लूंगा।

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सभापति महोदय, मुम्बई में लोगों को भेजने का काम अभी भी हो रहा है। दो कम्पनियों का नाम लिखा है और उनकी पुलिस में शिकायत की गई है। इस बारे में सरकार ने क्या किया है। ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री सभापति: आप प्रश्न संख्या 350 के संबंध में क्वेश्चन करिये।

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सभापति महोदय, प्रश्न संख्या 342 श्रीमती जया बच्चन का है।

श्री सभापति: अभी प्रश्न संख्या 350 पर क्वेश्चन हो रहे हैं। प्रश्न संख्या 342 पर नहीं हो रहा है। उसके लिए अभी आप वेट कीजिए।

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, understandably, the Members of the House are very concerned about the reply and the response which the hon. Minister of External Affairs has made. This is a matter in which the whole country is anxiously awaiting the release of three of our citizens. And, I am sure that the Government is making all efforts in this direction. We wish and hope that the release is procured very soon But, I have a question with regard to the written reply that the hon Minister has given. While the whole country is concerned and the Minister himself has been burning his midnight oil in trying to be engaged in this whole process, on what basis has the Government given a written reply to this House saying, 'the Government has no information as to how many Indians are being illegally detained in Iraq'? Certainly, we are aware of some of them for which he has been making the best of efforts, and, therefore, we expect the Government to come out with a more specific reply than saying that 'we have no information how many people are detained'. On what basis has the hon. Minister said this?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, three Indians have been taken hostage. That is known. As far as Government of India knows, no other Indian has been detained. That is a fact. They are working in Iraq. They are in the camps. We have already informed our mission to extend all possible assistance to facilitate their return to India, if they are willing. But, they are not coming. We have already advised that no Indian should visit there. We have been doing all this. As a matter of fact, no Indian is now in custody in Iraq for illegal stay. They have been working under a company. They have been sent by a private company. Only if they have any problem, it will be brought to the notice of the mission. That is the usual practice going on. That is not ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are two issues, one is about the three hostages who have been held by the terrorist group, and, second is about 5,000 and odd Indians who have been working in Iraq. Sir, several times the hon. Minister has said in the statement and

we have also seen in the television—and all the Members are concerned—that it is the Government of India's policy. But, Sir, earlier a negotiator was there, and thereafter, the KGL company is directly negotiating with them. I would like to know what kind of assistance the Government of India is giving to the KGL company for release of those three hostages. That is number one. Number two is this Najaf is a strife-torn area and a lot of activities are going on there and the whole area is bombarded. Many Indians are living there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what you are doing for the safety and security of the Indian people who are living there and what you are doing to evacuate them from there.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, I have already informed the august House that we have been advising our people to return. That is why I just gave you one incidence. When there was a complaint from about 20 Indians in a camp near Fallujah, our officers visited there. We called all the 117 Indians working there. Only 20 people were prepared to come because of their domestic reasons. Other people said that they did not want to come. They were happy there. Even now, we have made all arrangements. We have absolutely no laxity on that aspect. We will do everything and our Mission is always ready to help anybody who would like to return. We have issued instructions not only to our Embassy in Baghdad but also to our Embassies in two neighbouring countries, namely, Kuwait and Oman, to facilitate the return of our people, if they would like to come back. We have even made arrangements if they are coming from Baghdad to Kuwait. On the questions, how long will it take and what are the measures to be taken, if they are coming from Baghdad to Oman, there also, we have made arrangements, but our people have to return. This is the position.

श्री कृपाल परमार: सभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में कहा कि लगभग 5000 भारतीय इराक में हैं। क्या मंत्री जी यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि कितने भारतीय यहां से सीधे इराक गए और कितने भारतीयों को खाड़ी के दूसरे देशों से अमेरिकी एजेंसियों ने और अमेरिकी सेना ने वहां जाने के लिए मजबूर किया? दूसरा, तीन भारतीय बंधकों में से हिमाचल प्रदेश के दो नागरिक हैं। पिछली 21 तारीख से लगातार बंधकों के परिवार बदहाली का जीवन जी रहे हैं। मेरा केंद्रीय सरकार से कहना है, और संयोग से प्रधान मंत्री जी भी यहां पर हैं, कि केंद्रीय सरकार का कोई भी नुमाइंदा आज तक उन परिवारों की सुध लेने के लिए नहीं पहुंचा है। क्या सरकार उनके आंसू पोंछने का कोई प्रयास करेगी? साथ ही बंधकों को छुड़ाने के लिए अभी तक जो प्रयास किए गए हैं, वे नाकाफी साबित हुए हैं, तो क्या बंधकों के कभी छूटने की संभावना है?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already informed the House that these people who are working in American camps have been taken by a private company which is functioning not only in Iraq but also in Kuwait, Jordan and other countries. It is not with the knowledge of the Government of India that they are there. Regarding other things, this is a matter to be decided by the State Government. It has nothing to do with the MEA. But we are doing everything. As Mr. Jaitley has rightly pointed out, Government is making every effort to get them released at the earliest. As it is a highly sensitive and delicate matter, I may be pardoned for not giving other information. (*Interruptions*)

श्री कृपाल परमार: सभापति जी, मेरे इस सवाल का जवाब नहीं आया कि कितने लोगों को दूसरे देशों से मजबूर करके वहां भेजा जा रहा है?

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, after hearing the hon. Minister, I would like to draw his attention towards previous instances when some important people were abducted and the Government reacted in a different manner. Poor drivers are struck in Iraq. Look at it from the angle of those poor families and their agony.

Sir, I would like to request the Hon. Minister, since he is in the House, let him make a statement and come out with facts and figures.

श्री संजय निरुपम: सभापति जी, मुझे ऐसा लग रहा है कि सरकार एक अजीब तरह की ज़िद में बैठी हुई है और इस ज़िद के कारण और कुछ नहीं हो रहा है, पाती पर डंडा पीटे जा रहे हैं। आपसे पूछा कि आपने क्या-क्या किया तो आपने बताया कि एक अरब टी.वी. नेटवर्क से हमने अपील की, एक कंट्रोल रूप बनाया, के.जी.एल. से बात कर रहे हैं, लेकिन कहीं न कहीं किडनैपर्स से ऐसी सिचुएशन में बात करनी पड़ती है। आप डायरेक्ट बात नहीं करेंगे, आपकी अपनी एजेंसीज़ होंगी, आपकी इंटेलिजेंस एजेंसी होगी, तो इस पूरे प्रकरण में इंटेलिजेंस का फेलियोर साफ-साफ दिख रहा है। इससे पहले आपने बताया एक न्यूज़ एजेंसी की खबर आई कि 21 जुलाई को किडनैपिंग हो गई है, यानि आपकी एजेंसी क्या कर ही थी इराक में, कुछ समझ में नहीं आ रहा है। 21 जुलाई से 19 अगस्त तक सरकारी एजेंसी, जो वर्पिबपंस तरीके से आप बता रहे हैं कि हमने यह किया, हमने मिशन में किया, अब मस्कट से कोई Ambassador वहां चला गया और एक अरब इंटरप्रेटर के साथ वहां घूम रहा है, तो इस तरह की स्थिति में सरकार को ज़िद छोड़कर कहीं न कहीं किडनैपर्स के साथ एक "ट्रैक टू डिप्लोमेसी" जिसको कहते हैं, उस हिसाब से एक संबंध स्थापित करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए। चाहे रैनसम हो, कुछ भी हो, यह हमारे देश के नागरिकों की जान का प्रश्न है। हमारे देश के नागरिकों की जान को लेकर जिस

प्रकार से आपने अपनी भूमिका बनाई है, उसकी मैं निंदा करता हूं और बिलकुल इराक की तरह ...(व्यवधान)... बिलकुल इराक की तरह ...(व्यवधान)... एक मिनट ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु: सर, क्या यह डिबेट हो रही है? .....(व्यवधान).....

श्री सभापति: यह डिबेट नहीं है.....यह डिबेट नहीं है। .....(व्यवधान).....

श्री संजय निरुपम: चेयरमैन साहब, बिलकुल इराक की तरह .....(व्यवधान).....

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु: सर, क्या यह डिबेट हो रही है? मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह डिबेट हो रही है? .....(व्यवधान).....

श्री सभापति: उनको बोलने दीजिए। .....(व्यवधान).....

श्री संजय निरुपम: मैं क्वेश्चन पर आता हूं चेयरमैन साहब। बिलकुल इराक की तरह . ...(व्यवधान)..... सभापति जी .....सभापति जी .....(व्यवधान).....

श्री सभापति: उन्हें बोलने दीजिए। .....(व्यवधान).....

श्री संजय निरुपम: सभापति महोदय, बिल्कुल इराक की तरह ही नासिक का एक नौजवान पिछले दो महीने से पोलेंड में किडनेप पड़ा है। क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है?

श्री सभापति: आप पोलेंड का प्रश्न छोड़िए। .....(व्यवधान).....

श्री संजय निरुपम: हमारे देश के नौजवान नौकरी करने के लिए विदेश में जाते हैं ..... (व्यवधान).....

श्री सभापति: आप पोलेंड को छेड़िए। .....(व्यवधान).....

श्री संजय निरुपम: उनको किडनेप कर लिया जाता है और सरकार अपनी तरफ से बयान नहीं कर पा रही है। .....(व्यवधान).....

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, हो गया, कोई कह सकता है? श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज। ..... (व्यवधान).....

श्री संजय निरुपम: उस ऐजेंसी के बारे में मंत्री महोदय को जवाब देना चाहिए। ..... (व्यवधान).....

श्री सभापति: अब हो गया, वे जवाब दे देंगे। आप बैठिए। .....(व्यवधान)..... अरे भाई, मंत्री जी आपको जवाब दे देंगे, अभी वे नहीं जा रहे हैं। .....(व्यवधान)..... मिस्टर निरुपम यह ठीक नहीं है। अब हो गया, वे आपको जवाब दे देंगे।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: सभापति महोदय, डिप्लोमेसी का पहला राज होता है कि कम बोलो और दूसरा राज होता है, तथ्यों के साथ बोलो, पुख्ता सुबूतों के साथ बोलो। लेकिन इराक के इन बंधकों के मामले में मंत्री जी का आचरण ही उल्टा रहा है। उनका एक बयान आया जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि यह खुशी की खबर है, अब आने वाले हैं। उसके साथ देश में अपेक्षाएं बढ़ गई और मिठाइयां बंट गईं। बंधकों के लोगों को यह लगने लगा कि चंद घंटों के अंदर उनके लोग रिहा होकर आने वाले हैं। इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहूंगी कि यह मामला जटिल है, समय लग सकता है और सरकार अपनी ओर से कार्यवाही कर रही है। लेकिन जब तक रिहाई का पुख्ता सुबूत नहीं आ जाता, क्या आप बयान बाजी पर रोक लगाएंगे? क्या हमें यह बताएंगे कि अब बंधक बनाने वालों की मांगें क्या हैं? ये दो चीजें, मैं जानना चाहूंगी। प्रधानमंत्री जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं, क्योंकि अगर यह नहीं है तो कम से कम क्या अपने मंत्री की बयान बाजी के ऊपर रोक लगाएंगे? बंधकों की आखिर में क्या मांगें हैं, इसके बारे में सदन को आश्वस्त करके क्या सदन को विश्वास में लेंगे?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, I am very sorry to say that Shrimati Sushma Swaraj has arrived at this conclusion about my Statement. As a matter of fact, I have clarified what appeared in the media, especially on Television, breaking the news that the hostages have been released. I said: "No, it is not correct." I only cautioned. I said: "There is no authentic confirmation. It is what has already appeared there. Let us wait for the information." As soon as the information was received, again, we went to the people. I only came to the media to dispel the disinformation spread by the media. I did not make any statement like that. I have taken into confidence the people (*Interruptions*) I only followed the due procedure. (*Interruptions*) I only dispelled the untruth and half-truth. That is what I have done. It was my duty as I head the Crisis Management Group. It is my duty that I should also make it abudantly clear what the policy of the Government is. Many people have different opinions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister, that is enough. मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जिस प्रकार से क्वेश्चन्स आए हैं, उनसे आपको यह तो महसूस हुआ होगा कि सदन इस मामले में काफी सीरियस है। सदन को इस बात की जानकारी है कि जो hostages हैं, जिनके बारे में चर्चा चल रही है, समझौते की बातें हो रही हैं कि वे सुरक्षित वापस लौटें। क्या सरकार यह विश्वास पैदा करने के लिए कह सकती है कि आपके एफर्ट्स राइट डायरेक्शन में जा रहे हैं और उनके परिणाम स्वरूप आज जो वहां hostages हैं, वे सुरक्षित हिन्दुस्तान लौट आएं।

PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I share the concern of the House, and indeed, the concern of the entire

country about this unfortunate incident, where three of our countrymen have been taken as hostages. Consistent with our policy, every effort is being made to ensure that these three hostages are released as early as possible. But as Sushmaji has said, I don't think any purpose will be served if I were to narrate with whom we are talking, with whom we are not talking. Well, subject to that limitation, I can assure the House that whatever efforts are needed, they are being made But I cannot say, for example, that those hostages will be released tomorrow. There is considerable uncertainty. But as far as this Government is concerned, it is as serious as anybody else in the House to ensure that the hostages are released at the earliest possible opportunity. An early effort is being made. If there are any suggestions, for example, which the hon. Members on the opposite side have, we are willing to consider those also.

श्री सभापति: जया बच्चन जी, जवाब मिल गया आपको?

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: सभापति जी, नहीं मिला है।

श्री सभापति: जवाब दीजिए।

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: सभापति जी, मेरा सवाल ...(व्यवधान)..

श्री सभापति: आपको अब दे रहे हैं।

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, I am not satisfied with the answer.

श्री शीश राम ओला: आप जो पूछना चाहती हैं, वह बता दीजिए, उत्तर दे देंगे। सभापति जी, से पूछिए।

श्री सभापति: पूछने दीजिए।

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, I have two supplementaries.

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian ex-soldiers who took up employment in Iraq to guard US installations suffered heavy casualties after rebels attacked them; and if so, what is the number of such persons; and

(b) whether any compensation was given to the next of the kin of the deceased; if not, the reasons thereof

श्री शीश राम ओला: सभापति जी, हमारे मंत्रालय की जानकारी में कोई भी ऐसा मामला नहीं है कि भूतपूर्व सैनिक भेजे गए हैं। इसलिए उन्हें मुआवजा देने की बात तब आती है, जब यहां से भेजे गए हों।

श्री सभापति: जया बच्चन जी, समझिए, यह राजस्थानी जवाब है।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: राजस्थानी समझते हैं।

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: ठीक है, मैं आपसे दूसरा सप्लीमेंट्री पूछ लेती हूं, शायद उसका जवाब आपके पास हो Whether the Government is aware that on August 2.1.2003, a number of Indian workers, most of them belonging to the Muslim community, paid Rs. 75000/- each to a recruiting agency and obtained Kuwaiti work visas. After landing at Kuwait, they were sold to another agent who took them to a US military camp at Masool in Baghdad and forced them to work in the kitchen to cook pork, which is against their religion . (*Interruptions*) ..

श्री शीश राम ओला: सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से ...(व्यवधान)..

श्री सभापति: मेरे माध्यम से नहीं ...(व्यवधान)..

श्री शीश राम ओला: सभापति जी, जया बच्चन जी ने यह पूछा है कि क्या श्रम एवं रोज़गार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सरकार ने इराक में अमरीकी संस्थानों की निगरानी करने के लिए कुछ भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा ...(व्यवधान).. आप क्या बता कर रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान).. यह क्वेश्चन पूछा नहीं गया है ...(व्यवधान).. जब क्वेश्चन पूछेंगे उसका उत्तर दे दिया जाएगा ...(व्यवधान).. यह क्वेश्चन आपने नहीं पूछा है ...(व्यवधान).. इसलिए इसकी कोई जानकारी नहीं है ...(व्यवधान).. जो क्वेश्चन नहीं पूछा गया है उसकी क्या जानकारी दें ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: 342 है। 342वां क्वेश्चन है।

श्री शशि राम ओला: सभापति जी, यह क्वेश्चन नहीं पूछा गया है ...(व्यवधान)..

श्री सभापति: पूछ लिया ...(व्यवधान)..

श्री शीश राम ओला: हमारे पास इसकी कोई जानकारी नहीं है। जब यह क्वेश्चन पूछा ही नहीं है तो मैं जानकारी क्या दूं ...(व्यवधान).. इन्होंने जो क्वेश्चन पूछा है, उसकी मेरे पास सारी जानकारी है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: यह उसका ही तो सप्लीमेंट्री है।

श्री शीश राम ओला: मैं आपसे यह निवेदन कर रहा हूं ...(**व्यवधान**)... कि किस एजेंट ने कितने रुपए लिए ...(**व्यवधान**)... कितने गए ...(**व्यवधान**)... यह क्वेश्चन नहीं पूछा गया है ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: सर, यह फैसला चैयर का होता है कि कौनसा सवाल relevant है, कौन सा relevant नहीं है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री शीश राम ओला: सभापति जी, मैं आप के माध्यम से अर्ज़ करना चाहता हूं कि हमारे पास ऐसी कोई जानकारी नहीं है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is a very serious question. Let the Ministry enquire and come back ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a very important question.

श्री सभापति: मेरी समझ नहीं आता कि आप राजस्थान के एक मिनिस्टर के पीछे क्यों पड़ गए हैं?

श्री शीश राम ओला: सभापति जी, अगर ...(**व्यवधान**)... ऐसी कोई जानकारी वह चाहेंगे तो वह माननीय सदस्या को दे देंगे।

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Let him come back with the reply.

श्री सभापति: श्री अमर सिंह – अनुपस्थित। श्री शंकर राय चौधरी।

श्री शंकर राय चौधरी: सर, हमारे प्राक्तन फौजियों को हमारे मुल्क में किसी किस्म का employment नहीं मिल रहा है। महोदय, 20 लाख आदमी हैं जिन को combatant duties के लिए शिक्षा दी जाती है जिन के लिए हमारे मुल्क में कोई employment opportunities नहीं है। इसलिए अगर इन में से कुछ आदमी खतरे को समझकर इस employment के लिए इराक जाना चाहते हैं तो सरकार इन पर रोक क्यों लगा रही है?

श्री शीश राम ओला: माननीय सभापति जी, अभी-अभी तो यह क्वेश्चन आया है। ...(**व्यवधान**)... हंसने की क्या बात है, आप उत्तर सुनना चाहें तो मैं उत्तर दूं। सभापति जी, आज्ञा देंगे तो मैं उत्तर दूंगा, नहीं तो कैसे दूंगा? महोदय, मेरा निवेदन यह है कि हम ने इस बारे में कोई permanent रोक नहीं लगायी है, पर अभी इराक के हालात अच्छे नहीं है। एक तरफ तो यह बात पूछी जा रही है कि इराकी प्रतिष्ठानों की रक्षा के लिए एक्स-सर्विस मेन को अवैध तरीके से भेजा जा रहा है और दूसरी तरफ यह कह रहे हैं कि उनको भेजा क्यों नहीं जाए। महोदय, दूसरे मुल्कों में कहीं भी कोई जगह आती है और कोई एक्स-सर्विस-मेन जाना चाहता है, उस के लिए कोई रोक नहीं है। लेकिन इराक के हालात अच्छे नहीं है, इसलिए रोक लगायी गयी है और वह भी अस्थाई है।

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने उत्तर में लिखा है कि मुंबई की दो कंपनियों के खिलाफ पुलिस में शिकायत की गयी है, साथ ही दूसरी कंपनी को नोटिस भेजा है। तो जो illegal companies काम करती है, उन के बारे में सिर्फ पुलिस को ही नहीं, डिपार्टमेंट को भी मालूम होना चाहिए कि उस में हम क्या एक्शन ले रहे हैं, खाली पुलिस में कम्प्लेंट करने से समाधान होने वाला नहीं है। जो लोग illegally भेज रहे हैं, उस संबंध में आप क्या एक्शन ले रहे हैं।

श्री शीश राम ओला: सभापति जी, मैं आप के माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य को निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि ये दोनों कंपनीज रिक्रूटमेंट के लिए रजिस्टर्ड नहीं हैं, फिर भी एक पत्रिका में एक खबर छपी है और उस के आधार पर हम ने इन के खिलाफ हमारी एजेंसी को, हमारे Emmigration officers को जांच करने के आदेश दिए हैं। वे उस के खिलाफ कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं।

परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में निजी निवेश

*343. **श्री पी० के० माहेश्वरी:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में निजी निवेशकों को प्रोत्साहित करने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) उपरोक्त क्षेत्र में कितनी इकाइयां कार्यरत हैं तथा इनका इकाई-वार उत्पादन कितना है; और

(घ) सरकार द्वारा निजी निवेश आमंत्रित करने के अलावा परमाणु ऊर्जा का उत्पादन बढ़ाने हेतु उठाए जा रहे अन्य महत्वपूर्ण कदमों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पृथ्वीराज चव्हाण): (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर प्रस्तुत है।

विवरण

परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग

(क) और (ख) सन् 1987 में यथा-संशोधित परमाणु ऊर्जा अधिनियम, 1962, के अंतगर्त, केवल सरकार अथवा उन सरकारी कंपनियों द्वारा ही परमाणु विद्युत संयंत्रों को स्थापित किए जाने की अनुमति दी गई है जिनमें कम से कम 51% ईक्विटी केन्द्रीय सरकार की होती है। वर्तमान में, न्यूक्लियर पावर कारपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड (एन पी सी आई एल) और भारतीय नाभिकीय विद्युत निगम (भाविनी) नामक दो सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियां परमाणु